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**JUL 03 2007**REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 19, 2007. Claims 20, 21, 26 and 28 are pending in the application, with Claims 20, 26 and 28 being in independent form. Claims 17 to 19, 22 to 25, 27, 29 and 30 to 32 have been cancelled, and Claims 20, 26 and 28 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.


Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 20, 21, 26 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claims. In keeping with the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 20, 26 and 28, Applicants have rewritten Claims 20, 26 and 28 into independent form and to include the substance of their respective base Claims 17, 25 and 27, which have been cancelled. Consequently, independent Claims 20, 26 and 28 as amended, together with their dependent claims, are seen to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 17 to 19, 23 to 25, 27, 29, 30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Riehl, P.S., "Microsystems for Electrostatic Sensing", Dissertation, Nov. 2002 (Riehl). Claims 17 to 19, 22 to 25, 27, 29 and 30 to 32 have been cancelled, and Claims 20, 26 and 28 have been amended as noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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